

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 11, with the following amended paragraph.

During deep anaesthesia, all bodily functions are depressed. After any prolonged general anaesthesia, that is, anaesthesia where the human patient is unconscious for at least three hours, recovery to full energetic state may require a full month or more. ~~For~~^{For} purposes of describing this invention, by "recovery" is meant the ability of a patient subjected to general anaesthesia to resume normal alertness, ambulatory function and eating. If the patient experiences pain from a surgical procedure, an important aspect of recovery is relief from pain. Hendricks et al (Resuscitation 1984 November: 12 (3): 213-21, the teachings of which are hereby incorporated by reference) found that rats anesthetized with halothane for 30 minutes showed reduced spontaneous activity and neurological deficit during the first week after anaesthesia. The authors concluded that halothane and nitrous oxide have prolonged effects on locomotor behavior beyond the immediate post-anaesthesia recovery period. Similar effects are frequently observed in human patients after surgery. Patients find that they need more sleep, get fatigued easily throughout a day and are not alert enough to drive an automobile for several weeks. In addition, postoperative pain may require prolonged use of analgesic drugs, which may further inhibit physical activity, as patients tend to be more sedentary to minimize pain. As can be seen in Example 4, not all the effects shown in cardiac surgery wherein the heart is cross-clamped, with resultant decrease in heart function due to ischemia may be due to the ischemia alone. As noted, patients not subjected to ischemia and therefore assumed to have more normal heart function, also benefited from ribose administration as shown by better cardiac outcome. Other aspects of recovery from anaesthesia were not recorded in that trial. Trials were performed to determine whether the better function beyond cardiac parameters due to ribose administration can be shown in other cases of general anaesthesia.